

Lowton East Neighbourhood Development Forum (LENDF)

Contact Email Address: lendf99@gmail.com

Minutes of meeting held on
Monday 10 February 2025 at Lowton Social Club

PRESENT

Chair	Prof. Graham Wardle (GW)
Secretary	Liz Brown (LB)
Treasurer	Irene Thomson (IT)
Minutes Secretary	Gill Turner (GT)
Councillor	Garry Lloyd (GL)
Councillor	Mike Smith (MS)
Apologies	Jenny Gregory (JG)

No. of attendees = 20

1. Welcome and previous minutes

Minutes not read out at meeting, but copies have been sent out by email, posted on the Facebook page and put on the LENDF website. New visitors and guests were welcomed to the meeting.

2. Feedback on the PACT Police meeting (*meeting on 27 Jan at Lowton Social Club*)

These new meetings are for Police, Residents, Local Businesses, Local Councillors, all from **Area 2** (Lowton, Golborne, Ashton, Hindley). Wigan Council Community Safety Officer Sarah Owen also attended the meeting. These meetings will be held every 4 months. LB said it was useful meeting and recommended people attend future meetings. There were about 9/10 Police Officers from Area 2 present and it was good to meet them. We asked if, in future, the meetings could be advertised with more notice, and a later start time (19:00).

- Chief Inspector Adam Wignall gave Wigan Borough crime statistics and Inspector Mike Crosthwaite gave a more detailed analysis of Area 2 statistics. The top three reported crimes in Area 2 are:
1 Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), 2 Car/thefts, 3 Burglary (including garden sheds).
Prevention was discussed including more local activities for youth people (see later).
- The Council Community Resilience Team often meet with the police to discuss and action specific problems such as drug dens. Their process is 'clear, hold and build', meaning clear out the location, hold it so no-one returns, and then build the location back into the community. They also hold 'Our Town weeks'~ where one type of crime is targeted.
- Some high speeding observed on Slag Lane recently was due to cars attending a regular race meet in Warrington. Police have tackled the problem at its source
- Attendees then got into smaller groups at individual tables to discuss specific issues:
- Notice 59 signs, for off road vehicles – we have been asking for these signs for over a year. The paperwork is stuck on a council desk. Sarah Owen will chase this up.

- The makeshift bike park around Highfield Moss was also mentioned, Dane Anderton and other local councillors have walked around the site and suggested the placement of Section 59 signs.
- If anyone sees any off-road bikes being used on public footpaths, fields or roads, please report these via Crime Stoppers with dates and times and if possible, a description of the bike and rider. Local CCTV could then be used to find more specific details. *The more we report these incidents the more the police can do something about it.*

3. Parkside Phase 3 update (Tritax BigBox Rail freight Interchange)

Information about this item has already been emailed out but here is a bit more. Phase 3 is on greenbelt immediately opposite Kenyon Hall Farm and covers about 2 square km of agricultural land next to Winwick Lane. It runs from Dolly's Bridge (the railway bridge on Winwick Lane) to J22 of the M6.

Further discussion points:

- The goods will not just be from Liverpool but everywhere within the UK – e.g. Felixstowe, Scotland and the East. Although road traffic is expected to reduce nationally, it will dramatically increase in our locality.
- Residents need to influence plans to make it more palatable for Lowton.
- It was reported that potholes will be far worse since a 1 x 44 tonne HGV equates to ca.4000 cars wear and tear on a road. GW reported that road damage is proportional to (axle-weight) raised to the power of 4.
- At the TRITAX drop-in on 10 February the greenbelt land was mentioned, and a representative reported that the land had been 'intensively farmed' so could be downgraded to grey belt.
- Need a protective tree/hedge line down Winwick Lane with an adjacent footpath.
- Need a weight limit from the site roundabout on Winwick Lane towards Lowton.
- If there are problems on the motorway, vehicles will use A580/Winwick Lane. [NB. *LaGTAC and local community groups formally requested a series of HGV weight restrictions for roads within Lowton and Golborne some 4 years ago. These were all turned down by Wigan Council*].
- Even more HGV traffic is forecast as a **Biowaste plant** is being planned at Winwick near Highfield Lane, just off J22 of the M6.
<https://www.warringtonguardian.co.uk/news/24863548.winwick-waste-digestion-plant-needed-new-food-waste-scheme/>
- The 'Smart' M6 is an issue as not enough emergency hard shoulders are available for breakdowns. The J22 slip road north bound is not long enough and very close to the previous junction making it difficult to pull in.
- Loss of wildlife and green space. It was reported that the pond on the Moss is a natural spring; people used to swim in it!
- Rights to Highfield Moss were discussed with the possibility of them being enforced
- **Consultation events yet to come, please go if you can and report back**
 - ✓ Newchurch Parish Hall 1 March 2025 2pm -7pm
 - ✓ Online event 5 March 2025 – sign up to join 18:30 to 20:00
 - ✓ There are no meetings in the Lowton area
 - ✓ **Please give online feedback, due in by 21 March 2025**

4. Councillors Update

- Gary and Mike attended the above PACT meeting. They said it was a good meeting and recommend people sign up for Bee-in-the-Loop <https://www.beeintheloop.co.uk/>

- They attended the National Holocaust 80th anniversary event at Sacred Heart school in Atherton. This was well attended and children participated in the event. The children have to carry the memory on, so it isn't allowed to happen again.
- Bright Boroughs monies have been used to supply Lowton Sailing Club with a defibrillator for members and other club users. There is no defibrillator access for the general public, but it is essential for users of the club.
- Leigh Ornithological Society and Lowton Social Club darts youth team have received money too.
- Golborne Brass Band will be at Heath St Methodist Church for a competition on 16 February 2025 and then 23 February 2025 at Winter Gardens.

5. LENDF Website

This is work in progress. There is a brand-new site being built in the background. The current site is very old and has a lot of past news items that can be archived. The LENDF and LHSRG minutes will continue to be uploaded to the old site for the time being. LaGTAC will also upload reference/ technical documents and papers to this new website.

6. Youth opportunities in/near Lowton (*LB presented – see attached presentation*)

A group of youths have set a fire around the acorn statue on the newly refurbished Oaklands park. The damage cost a lot to fix as the artificial safety grass had to be repaired and the Acorn removed. Please report any further ASB incidents to the police via Crime Stoppers, the more they are reported the more the police will have to attend. The council has a very limited budget to repair deliberate damage without putting up council tax. A park could therefore be left to rot if there is regular ASB damage.

A discussion took place to try to minimise the risk of ASB. It was acknowledged that a few teenagers may not want to do any suggested alternative activities, but some might. The more local the activity the better, so they could attend under their own steam as parents might not be able to take them. Public transport is **not currently** available to the sports village from Lowton.

See the attached presentation for activities and links. *Please let us know of any other good local activities for teenagers.*

7. AOB

- a) Start date for road works at Lane Head – start of summer holidays.
- b) Key for the Braithwaite noticeboard – No update, Garry to chase up.
- c) Darts and Dominoes – Tue 25th Feb £4 – email lhsrg00@gmail.com
- d) Bryrom Hall Wood Volunteers – Wed 26th Feb 10am – 3pm
email northwestvol@forestryengland.uk for more info.
- e) CPS in Culcheth – the shop owners have been asked to vacate the property by the property owner by the 28th Feb. It was said that the property owner wants to turn the building into flats. Sainsburys are staying for the moment as they have a 3-year rolling contract. N.B. Any 'change of use' may impact parking.
- f) The snowdrops planed last year near St Catherine School are coming up.
There were also bluebells and primroses planted.
- g) If anyone wants to have a tour of the Leigh Youth Hub email us.
- h) Watch this space for a litter pick on a Saturday in the next month or so.
- i) Next LHSRG meeting is 7:15pm, Mon March 17th at the Travel Lodge at Lane Head.

Next LENDF meeting:
Mon 14 April 2025 at 7:30pm at Lowton Social Club